DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

~~NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION~~
~~Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions~~

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Classification/Control Markings

This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: ARGENTINA (AR)

2. REPORT NUMBER: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. TITLE: (U) Military - Political - Admiral Massera and Human Rights

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

5. DATE OF INFORMATION: 780131

6. DATE OF REPORT: 780202 (b)(3):10 USC 424

7. DATE & PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 780131, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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9. ASSESSMENT: SOURCE [redacted] INFO [redacted] (b)(3) 10 USC 424

10. ORIGINATOR: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

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12. PREPARING OFFICER: [redacted]

13. APPROVING AUTHORITY: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

14. SOURCE: Amembassy Buenos Aires

15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ADVANCE REPORT FOR ~~DEFENSE USE ONLY~~

DIRC YES ☐ NO ☒

16. SUMMARY:
(U) Report forwards American Embassy, Buenos AIres telegram concerning Admiral Massera and Human Rights.

[redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

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Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: *Oct 19, 2018*

20. ENCLOSURES:
1 Enclosure
1. Copy of Amembassy Buenos Aires Telegram 0742, DTG 302100Z JAN 78
1 cy, 3 pages ~~(C)~~

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21. This IR contains 1 pages.

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1 SEPT 62 EDITION MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 MAR 77

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CN 0742
302100Z JAN 78

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE (b)(3):10 USC 424 ROUTION

	ACT	INFO
DCM		
POL		
AMB		
AARIS		
NAVATT		
GSEC		
AID		

FROM: AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~11652:~~ ~~GDS~~
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: MASSERA AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 0742

(b)(3):10 USC 424
AMB
DCM
POL3
POLR
ECOM
USIS
LEGATT
SY
RF
CHRON

REF: STATE 22648

1. It is difficult for us to believe that Massera is on the side of the angels where human rights in Argentina are concerned. We believe this difficulty is shared by private Argentines who give thought to human rights. It is widely believed here that the Navy (as well as the Army, Air Force and Federal Police), has been responsible for abductions, torture during interrogations, summary execution, and extra-legal detention.

2. There is no firm evidence, however, ~~xxxxxx~~ xxx ~~any~~ of this. The possibility exists that Massera's boys in blue are truly Argentina's finest, pure of heart and with unstained hands. The fact, however, that the Navy has its own

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POL:WHHallman:gcr	1/30/78	278	DCM:MChaplin

CLEARANCES
USIS:JHiggins ~~(in draft)~~
POLR:JSears
(b)(3):10 USC 424 ~~(in draft)~~
LEGATT:RScherrer (in draft)
SY:RKelly (in draft)
(b)(3):10 USC 424

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individual security ~~in~~ service, and of its known involvement in security investigations leads to opposite conclusions. The Navy's anti-terrorist operations in 1976 and early 1977 was very tough in such specific areas as Mar del Plata and Bahia Blanca. The Navy Mechanics School has been cited as a tough interrogation center. Consensus here is that ~~also~~ also Massera is responsible for whatever the Navy does, There are few "out of control" theories of rumors about the Navy.

3. Admiral Massera, whatever his other flaws, is an instinctive and savvy politician who has worked hard--and within some constituencies effectively--to create for himself a base of power grounded upon personal popularity. In addition to his own efforts, Navy officers and civilians especially trusted by Massera go about praising his name and replenishing his laurels. Massera boasts of his contact and popularity with labor people, Peronists, Jews and Civil Rights groups. He has a front man who has even ~~here~~ opened a "civic center" here in Buenos Aires to act in the Admiral's support. While his actions make him look very much like a populist, Massera especially criticizes ~~criticizing~~ Army Chief of Staff Viola for his "populist"tendencies. Massera, in fact, bad-mouths his Army colleagues with increasing indiscretion. It was inevitable, we believe, that some bright reporter would

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open doors upon Massera's not so-private political activities. Just as Massera has used incidents like the Russian trawlers and, to an extent, the Beagle issue to gain popularity within Argentina, he now appears to be using the human rights issue to gain the good will of the US Government.

4. As of noon January 30 no press coverage of or commentary concerning the "Washington Post" story had appeared, except for brief mention in a Buenos Aires German language daily to President Carter's reference to the "Washington Post" article. We suspect nothing further will appear, but that the story will nevertheless become widely known here and will cause a stir in government circles.

5. Lastly, we should point out that the rivalry game is not one which Massera plays unopposed. Two publications--"Conviccion" and "Tribuna de la Republica"--believed linked closely to Massera have had issues seized and been briefly suspended from publication. [redacted]

CASTRO

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